



PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF FREMONT NEW HAMPSHIRE

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with NH RSA 675:6 and 675:7, you are hereby notified that the Fremont Planning Board held Public Hearings on Wednesday October 22, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs Land Use Meeting Room of the Fremont Town Hall and voted to approve the following as the amended Recreation Facilities and Programs Chapter of the Fremont Master Plan.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The Fremont Recreation department employs one part-time grounds keeper. There are three significant recreation areas within Fremont, including:

- The Town owns the fourteen (14) acre Fremont Memorial Park located along Main Street (Route 107). The site is quite accessible and currently contains a soccer field and track, a Little League baseball field, a Babe Ruth baseball field, a softball field, a playground and a basketball court. The fields are mostly used by the Fremont Athletic Association who sponsors soccer, baseball and softball programs. This site also contains a concessions and maintenance building, used for storage of a tractor and maintenance equipment, bathrooms and a concessions stand.
- There is a state-owned recreation trail running adjacent to Fremont Memorial Park. The trail is one and eight tenths (1.8) miles long and extends from the Little League field south to the Danville/Fremont border. The land was previously owned by the Boston & Maine Railroad. In 1987, the tracks were removed from the state-owned section of the corridor, and metal gates have been installed at both ends to prevent four-wheel drive vehicles from using the trail. The NH Division of Parks has expressed an interest to work cooperatively with Fremont in managing the railroad bed trail, however, no concrete management plan has been developed at this time and the trail is not maintained by either the State or the Town.
- Ellis School contains several recreation facilities including: play-grounds, ball-fields, and a gymnasium with a basketball court. These facilities are used by the Fremont Parks and Recreation Commission for its summer program.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (established in 1982) is comprised of five volunteers who are appointed by the Selectmen. The Commission sponsors a variety of recreational programs including:

- A summer youth program every summer. This program is six (6) weeks in length and is offered to children grades one (1) through six (6). The program serves approximately forty five (45) children per year.
- Holiday events for Easter, Halloween and Christmas. These are one day events offered to children from preschool through grade six (6). These events serve up to sixty (60) kids per event.

Future Needs

- As the Town continues to grow, pressures for increased public recreational facilities will also grow. It is important for the Town to manage existing areas and set aside areas for future recreational development. It is an explicit goal of the Vision Chapter of the Master Plan that *“The Planning Board continues to encourage the establishment of new public recreational facilities, and the expansion of existing public recreational facilities, located and designed to meet the changing needs of Fremont's residents.”*

The goals further states: “Fremont has seen its sports programs grow ten-fold since the new fields have been installed at Memorial Park. We are happy to see the community coming together and the kids having a great time. We are also happy to see many adults using the track to walk and run daily. Relative to future projects and goals, the Fremont Recreation Committee reports a need for an acquisition of at least ten (10) acres of property for expansion of recreational facilities and to support two (2) additional baseball fields, one (1) more soccer field and have received interest a tennis court or two. Added goals include a skate park and repairs to the existing track.

Recommendations

1. The Town should continue to assemble and support the Fremont Recreation Commission.
2. The Town should investigate potential sites in town for additional fields and/or recreation areas. The expansion can be funded through fund raising efforts, warrant articles and grants. The Recreation Services Division within DRED offers grant money, as well as the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. For more information on grant opportunities, please contact the above sources directly or contact the Rockingham Planning Commission.
3. The Town should work with the Division of Parks to manage the existing, as well a future, Rockingham Recreational Trail.

Fremont Planning Board:

Roger Barham, Chairman

John Karcz, Co-chairman

Gene Cordes, Selectman

John Downing

Leon Holmes, Jr.

Salvatore Angelone

Posted: October 28, 2008 at the Fremont Town Hall, Library, Safety complex, and Post office and on file in the offices of the Fremont Selectmen, Planning/Zoning and Town Clerk for viewing during regular business hours.